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Music director AR Rahman (3rd right), peforms with other singers before the first match of 2024 IPL at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday | ASHWIN PRASATH

CHENNAI HIGH: Mustafizur Rahman's four wickets help CSK post 6-wicket win in inaugural match against RCB

MUSTAFIZUR MAKES A MARK

Rahman (4/29) instantly ran through the RCB top-order. A late fightback helped RCB to 173/6. In a steady chase by CSK, an unbeaten 66-run partnership by S Dube and R Jadeja saw team home

RETURN OF RISHABH

Almost a year-and-a-half after a car accident, Rishabh Pant is all set to make a comeback in competitive cricket on Saturday. Pant will lead DC in their first game against Punjab Kings | P13

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

ED CLAIMS HE IS ULTIMATE IN-CHARGE OF AAP, WAS PART OF FRAMING EXCISE POLICY

ED gets 6-day custody of Delhi CM in money laundering case

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

ARRESTED Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal got no relief from a local court here on Friday as it remanded him for six days in the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) custody, till March 28 in the Delhi excise policy scam.

Three other leaders of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) — Satyendar Jain, Manish Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh — are already under ED arrest in the same case.

"The accused, Arvind Kejriwal, be remanded to six day ED custody, till March 28," Special Judge PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) Kaveri Baweja, said in her order. Kejriwal was produced in the Rouse Avenue court around 2 pm amid heavy security. The ED sought his custody for 10 days, claiming he had to be interrogated in a "detailed and sustained manner" in the excise case.

The court's order is a big blow for Kejriwal as he was preparing to hit the campaign trail in the general elections to increase his party's footprint. Earlier in the day, he withdrew a plea from the Supreme Court he had filed the previous day, challenging his arrest.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Kejriwal, said he was withdrawing his plea from the SC and would argue the case in the lower court where he would be produced by the ED.

As for the ED, it alleged in the Rouse Avenue court that Kejriwal is the kingpin of the Delhi liquor scam. "The CM demands kickbacks from South Group. It is a serious crime," Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju told the court. The probe agency said that huge cash amounts were handed over to various people. The proceeds of crime in the case were used in the Goa polls, it added.

VOICES

I vehemently condemn the arrest. It's outrageous that elected opposition CMs are being deliberately targeted

Mamata Banerjee, TMC

Where is democracy in this country? In Russia, (Vladimir) Putin got 88 per cent votes. They (BJP) are following Putin's path

Bhagwant Mann, AAP

Minister Atishi Marlena with AAP workers being detained during a protest against the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi on Friday | PARVEEN NEGI

KEJRIWAL KINGPIN OF EXCISE SCAM, SAYS ED

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

THE Enforcement Directorate on Friday told the Rouse Avenue court here that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was intrinsically involved in the entire conspiracy to frame Delhi's new excise policy in such a way that certain private persons were favoured in a quid pro quo to get kickbacks.

The ED alleged that the proceeds of the crime — as much as ₹45 crore — were used in the election campaign of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for Goa.

Explaining Kejriwal's role in the case, the ED said he is the ultimate in-charge of AAP and was directly involved in the formulation of the excise policy.

"This policy was being drafted considering the favours to be granted to the South Group and was formed in collusion with Vijay Nair, Manish Sisodia, and members-representatives of the South Group," the ED said in its remand application.

The ED said Kejriwal's role in the formulation of the policy was evident from the statement of C Arvind, the then Secretary of former deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and Butchibabu Gorantla, CA of K Kavitha.

Arvind revealed that he was handed over the draft Group of Ministers (GoM) report by Sisodia at Kejriwal's residence where former minister Satyendar Jain was also present. The document mentioned that wholesale licence should be given to private players and profit margin was fixed at 12%.

As per ED, these points were never discussed in GoM meetings. Arvind prepared a draft and handed it over to Sisodia. Later it was submitted before the cabinet. As for Butchibabu, Whatsapp messages from his phone revealed certain provisions of the excise policy two days before it was finalised by the council of ministers.

K'taka govt to resume board exams for Classes 5, 8, 9 from Monday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UPHOLDING the state government's decision to conduct the board examination for students of Classes 5, 8, 9 and 11, a division bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Friday permitted it to complete the examination process.

Accordingly, the board examination for remaining subjects of Classes 5, 8 and 9 in schools affiliated to the Karnataka State Education Assessment Board (KSEAB) will be held from March 25, according to a notification issued by the board.

Revised timetable

The Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) on Friday announced that the examination for students of Classes 5, 8 and 9 will be held in the afternoon on March 25 and 27, in view of the SSLC exam which will be held from March 25 to April 6.

A division bench of Justice K Somashekar and Justice Rajesh Rai K pronounced the order, which was reserved on March 18, on the appeals by the government questioning the March 6 verdict of a single judge. The decision of the government to conduct the board examination was quashed by the single judge.

The division bench directed the government to hold the remaining assessment for students of Classes 5, 8 and 9 and to resume the process, which was stalled for students of Class 11. The board had completed the examination for students of Class 11. P2

Hate speech: HC stays FIRs against Shobha, Tejasvi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka on Friday stayed the First Information Report (FIR) and further proceedings against Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje for allegedly promoting feelings of enmity between the people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Shobha Karandlaje

The court also stayed two more FIRs and further proceedings against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya for allegedly disturbing peace and promoting enmity between two communities.

Justice Krishna S Dixit stayed the proceedings after hearing a petition by Karandlaje, questioning the legality of the FIR registered against her by Bengaluru's Cottonpet police for her speech based on a complaint by the head of the Flying Squad for Bengaluru Central Lok Sabha constituency.

Justice Dixit also heard the petitions filed by Surya, questioning the validity of two FIRs registered against him by Halasuru Gate police for allegedly disturbing peace during a protest at Nagarthpet in the city against the attack on a shopkeeper on March 19. CONTINUED ON: P4

EXPRESS READ

Stop Shiva Rajkumar's films, ads till polls: BJP

Bengaluru: The BJP state unit has appealed to the Chief Electoral Officer to prohibit exhibition of films and advertisements featuring actor Shiva Rajkumar during the Lok Sabha election period as the actor is campaigning for Congress candidates. In a letter, the party sought immediate action from ECI | P4

ISRO's Pushpak makes perfect landing again

Bengaluru: The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) 'Pushpak' Reusable Launch Vehicle successfully simulated the approach and high-speed landing conditions from space by touching down precisely on the runway at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at 7.10 am in Chitradurga on Friday | P5

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